
By Staff Reports

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County wins 45 national awards

San Bernardino County earned 45 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties, continuing a tradition of recognition from the organization. Every year, NACo recognizes programs across the country that modernize county government and increase services to county residents. This year, NACo awarded 618 entries from 112 counties in 34 states. In 2015, San Bernardino County won 46 Achievement Awards from NACo, the most in the nation. In 2014, the County won 31 NACo Achievement Awards. This year, the county distinguished itself in Southern California where Los Angeles and San Diego counties each won 47 awards, Orange County won 10 and Riverside County won four. Visit www.sbcounty.gov for more on each specific award.

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County wins 45 awards from National Association of Counties

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The County of San Bernardino's innovative and groundbreaking programs earned 45 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), continuing a tradition of recognition from the organization.

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In 2015, San Bernardino County won 46 Achievement Awards from NACo, the most in the nation. In 2014, the County won 31 NACo Achievement Awards. This year, San Bernardino County distinguished itself in Southern California where Los Angeles and San Diego counties each won 47 awards, Orange County won 10 and Riverside County won four.

"I'm so proud of the work our employees and departments do every day to improve the lives of our residents," said Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos. "I congratulate all the departments and those who continue to distinguish themselves on a national scale."

The Board of Supervisors will recognize and honor the people and departments responsible for the winning programs and services below at an upcoming public meeting:

NACo Child Mental Health: A Comprehensive, Collaborative Strategy: Children and Family Services established an Administrative Joint Management Strategy and Structure to ensure mental health services are provided to youth in the child welfare system in a comprehensive, systematic and sustained fashion.

Gateway Mock Trial Program: In 2013, the Public Defender's Office, in collaboration with the Probation Department and the California Superior Court, developed a mock trial program for juveniles being detained in the Gateway Program. Juveniles volunteer to participate and the teams are divided up depending on which phase of the Gateway program the minor is in. The teams are coached by Deputy Public Defender volunteers who go into Juvenile Hall to teach the intricacies of preparing for and conducting a live trial. After months of preparation a full trial is conducted in front of the other Gateway students which is presided over by a real Superior Court judge.

Law Day Program: Deputy Public Defenders volunteer their time to meet, interact, and discuss legal issues with students at local schools to educate them on the great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law. The goal of the Law Day Program is to use the powers of active learning to help bring awareness of the risks of being young in today's society and as they transition into adulthood. It gives our youth a better understanding of the law, and educates them of our moral and civic obligation as Americans to preserve and strengthen the principle of guaranteed fundamental rights of individuals under the law.

Meeting Kinship Needs through a Resource Portal: Children and Family Services entered into a

collaborative with other agencies in 2014, to create a one-stop, comprehensive, online and phone accessible, resource portal comprised of available government, community and business resources for foster and kinship families and transition-age youth in the county. Other agencies in the partnership are iFoster, the United Way of California and 211 California. The portal includes information on resources administered by other county human services departments, especially Transitional Assistance and Behavioral Health as well as the Housing Authority.

Parent Partner Program and Services: The Parent Partner program was established by Children and Family Services to provide an avenue for parents of children who were previously in child welfare cases to mentor fellow parents whose children are currently receiving child welfare services. Under this program, CFS employs suitable parents of children who have successfully passed through the child welfare system and dedicates them to mentoring parents and families with open cases or referrals. It has been observed that a significantly greater proportion of children in open CFS cases reunified with their families when their parents and families utilize the services of Parent Partners.

Psychotropic Medication Protocol: Children and Family Services in partnership with the Department of Public Health and the Juvenile Dependency Court have developed a Psychotropic Medication Protocol to ensure that psychotropic medication is administered to children only when absolutely necessary, and once the determination is made that a child actually needs the medication, it is provided on a timely basis. The goals are to ensure that only appropriate medication is being prescribed for dependent children; decrease the waiting time between when the initial request for a psychotropic prescription is submitted and when the Juvenile Dependency Court approves or denies the request, and reduce the workload of child welfare social workers.

Take the Lead Campaign: In January 2015, Children and Family Services and Performance Education & Resource Centers launched the Take the Lead Media Outreach campaign in order to generate increased media coverage that highlighted the success stories and available services provided by the department. The communications team essentially began to “Take the Lead” in their approach to generating media coverage. Through this campaign the department was able to essentially have an ally in the media in its goal of educating the community about the need for loving foster and adoptive homes, child abuse prevention, and other resources available to children and their families.

Homeward Bound Project Adopt: The County developed a unique multifaceted pet adoption and marketing effort called, “Homeward Bound Project Adopt.” This ongoing campaign includes the establishment of a social media presence on Facebook, development of marketing videos placed on YouTube, coordination of approximately 50 annual on-site and off-site subsidized pet adoption events and the establishment of an annual large scale adoption effort called the “Homeward Bound Mega Pet Adoption Event.” Through this coordinated and consistent effort, the County has realized an increase in the number of pets adopted, by percentage, and a decrease in the number of pets euthanized.

My Elections Gateway – A Program to Provide Customized Election Information: The County Elections Office challenged itself to find a better way to distribute customized election information to improve service delivery for all voters. The Elections Office developed a mobile-responsive application, accessible from the

existing website, which allows for maximum ease of use from a wide range of mobile devices and personal computers. Since the release of My Elections Gateway in October of 2014, the Elections Office has received positive feedback and praise for making voter registration and elections more understandable and accessible.

The Veteran, Senior and Homeowner Exemption Outreach Program: This program enables the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk to educate the public on available exemptions that provide tax relief for veterans, seniors, and homeowners. Forms of communication such as brochures, special mailings, and personal interactions at community events and resource fairs were developed. Since implementing the program, there have been significant increases in the number of applications received for tax relief programs and services.

Bloomington Intergenerational Housing Project: This project is an affordable senior and adult/family housing development containing 106 one and two-bedroom units. The developer has allowed 11 units for occupancy by Mental Health Services Act eligible adults and senior clients. The remainder of the 95 units will be affordable to low income individuals and families. The Bloomington Intergenerational Housing Project is a collaborative permanent supportive housing project with Related California, John Stewart Company, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), and DBH's Full Service Partnership, AgeWise Supportive Services, and Mesa Full Service Partnership.

Fontana Siena Apartments Housing Project: This "new construction" affordable housing development has 55 one-, two- and three- bedroom units. The developer has allowed 15 of the units for occupancy by Mental Health Services Act eligible individuals, one unit reserved as the manager's unit and the remaining 39 units will be designated for low-income tenants. The project is a collaborative permanent supportive housing project with developer Palm Communities, LifeSTEPS Inc., ConAm Property Management, Corp., Fontana Siena Partners, L.P., the City of Fontana, the County Community Development and Housing Agency, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), and DBH's Mesa's and Mariposa's Full Service Partnerships.

SPARC Initiative: The SPARC Initiative is a landmark success in renewable energy policy development, with broad endorsement from constituents, environmental groups and industry. In 2013, a moratorium on commercial solar projects was adopted to respond to extensive public resistance. There is now a regulatory framework that may well achieve our governor's 50 percent renewable energy mandate, while respecting local priorities for community development, conservation and environmental stewardship. The SPARC Initiative included nearly 20 workshops. To accommodate intense public interest throughout our enormous geographic area SPARC also made extensive use of digital tools for virtual town meetings, sharing of research through a web-based library, public notices, editorial commentary, and a wide range of other web-based content. Key successes from this groundbreaking Initiative were our innovative web program at www.SPARCFORUM.org, a new regulatory framework for renewable energy development, and broad consensus on community-scale development.

Faster Election Night Results Program: In 2012, the Elections Office set a goal to improve the existing ballot counting program and provide faster results. To achieve this goal, the Elections Office implemented the Faster Election Night Results Program. This program strives to achieve four objectives: make the process for segregating ballots more efficient, speed up the process of delivering ballots to the central

counting location, speed up the process for reviewing ballots, and improve the process for counting ballots. After implementing the Faster Election Night Results Program, election night results were delivered 6 hours faster in the 2012 Presidential Election than the 2008 Presidential Election.

Probation DRRSC Employment Readiness, Training and Placement Program: In response to AB 109, the Probation Department established Day Reporting and Reentry Services Centers for adults in three major geographical areas of our large county: Central Valley, West Valley, and High Desert. These centers were designed as one-stop, centralized places for the reentry population providing onsite representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Public Health, Transitional Assistance Department, and the Workforce Development Department. Employment has been identified as a key factor to recovery, reentry and recidivism reduction, therefore, probation has partnered with Workforce Development to develop a comprehensive Probation to Work Program. This program provides job training, resume building, computer resources, mock interviews, financial education program, support for overcoming barriers, and career planning.

Special Victims K-9 Unit: Sometimes just being in the physical courtroom itself can be stressful for kids. And then when you factor in the content of what they may have to discuss in their testimony, overall, it can be a traumatic experience. Asking a child to recall horrific details in a courtroom full of strangers, with his or her abuser staring from across the room, is a painful and sometimes embarrassing situation. To ease these fears, the District Attorney's Office created the Special Victims K-9 Unit. Our main goal is to greatly reduce the understandable fears that a child has about entering the courtroom. Doing so is beneficial to everybody involved because when the child is calm and feeling more confident, it is likely that we can more effectively obtain justice.

El Niño Threat Flood Mitigation Program: The forecasts for the 2015 El Niño storm season predicted a severe threat for flooding in the county. Flood control facilities, which include earthen flood control channels, basins and rivers, had a buildup of brush and natural habitat in excessive amounts that needed removal to prepare the facilities for the flood threat. The removals of these materials are governed by the environmental regulatory agencies and require long permit processing timeframes. The County met with representatives from all the major environmental resource agencies along with County emergency responders to discuss an innovative expedited permitting process to meet the El Niño threat. After much discussion the regulatory agencies agreed to let Public Works clean out 37 priority facilities through a special expedited permit process. The priority facilities were cleaned out and allowed adequate flows that provided protection to properties and life as expected.

Storm Emergency Computer Application: The forecasts for the 2015 El Niño storm season predicted a severe threat for flooding in the County, compelling agencies to modernize flood management technologies. The Department of Public Works replaced its slow manual processes and paper log records with GIS technology to create a real time computer application to provide location-based analysis, real time situational awareness, and response.

Job-Driven SlingShot Initiative: In October of 2014, the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board and the Riverside County Workforce Development Board formed the Inland Empire Regional

Collaborative (IERC) to create the Inland Empire Job-Driven SlingShot Initiative. The IE SlingShot Initiative is about creating a model for how employer engagement is incorporated in the development of training curriculum that results in better training and employment outcomes. Healthcare and manufacturing were chosen to pilot a new approach on aligning business and education because of employer demand and the potential for income mobility within these sectors. San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Boards have created industry sector working groups made up of business leaders from the region, meeting to effect change and industry growth in the Inland Empire.

Transitions Program: The Transitions Program housed within the California Institution for Men and the California Institution for Women, is a collaborative effort between the County Workforce Development Board (WDB), and the California Department of Corrections Rehabilitative (CDCR) Programs. The Transitions Program was created to offer offenders employment preparation and financial literacy skills, ensuring successful reentry into society upon their release from prison. Since November of 2014, the WDB and CDCR, have partnered on this unique and innovative Transitions Program to provide nearly 1,000 offenders with employability skills training and resources including, but not limited to, referrals to the America's Job Centers in the county of residence, child support information, social security and identifying documents, housing, education, financial literacy and hope of a seamless transition, after release, into society.

Workforce Development Board Human Centered Design: One of the goals of the Workforce Development Board has been to find ways to implement new processes that will help customers be more successful. The Workforce Development Board used a Human Centered Design model to improve the overall customer experience in all three America's Job Centers of California in the county by creating a welcoming environment, where customers are surrounded by teams of experts and provided a sense of comfort and support. The WDB's efforts were recognized nationally as part of a Department of Labor Challenge, for improving customer experience and outcomes for shared One-Stop customers. Subsequently, the Department of Workforce Development was invited to showcase Customer-Centered Design strategies at the Customer Centered Design White House Learning Exchange in Washington, D.C.

Expedited Solar Permitting System: In August 2015, the Small Residential (<10kW) Rooftop Solar Ordinance was adopted by the County to address new requirements imposed from the passage of Assembly Bill 2188. The goal of AB 2188 was to streamline and expedite the permitting of small solar systems of 10kW or less. This kilowatt category applies to small residential rooftop solar energy systems. AB 2188 stipulated that permits not approved over-the-counter should be reviewed within 1 to 3 days and that an inspection be completed within 1 to 5 days. In addition to meeting the mandates of AB 2188, the County has collaborated with neighboring jurisdictions to adopt consistent and replicable standard requirements in the Expedited Solar Permitting System.

Children & Youth Collaborative Services (CYCS) – Intensive Eating Disorders Program: Children and Youth Collaborative Services adapted Family Based Treatment, an evidenced based treatment provided in the home, with intensive case management for eating disorders. In the past two and a half years, this program has provided services to 102 youth with severe eating disorders. Ten percent of these youth started the program while hospitalized and fed through a nasogastric tube to address medical consequences of the

disorder. Ongoing collaboration with the medical team, including facilitating access to a nutritionist in the local community, is a cornerstone of this approach. Of those served, 60 percent appeared to be capable of managing any ongoing issues without the need of further mental health treatment. An additional 8 percent improved, but needed additional mental health services to address the eating disorder after the program was finished.

Domestic Violence Health Care Partnership: The goal of the domestic violence and healthcare safety net partnership is to address and prevent domestic violence through integrated models of service and system-level improvements. In the County, a partnership between the Family Assistance Program, a non-profit organization, and the Department of Public Hesperia Health Center was established. Since the implementation of this project the Family Assistance Program and the Health Center successfully impacted several crucial areas: Changes in shelter and clinical practice, collection and analysis of quality improvement data to measure change in behavior and practice, improvement in identification of domestic violence patients, increased health care resource acquisition for victims, impact on community knowledge and attitudes, and significant improvement in shelter clients accessing routine care.

ICEMA Statewide EMS Data Repository: The Emergency Medical Services Authority and Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency worked together to create a statewide data repository for the collection and reporting of EMS data. It was designed to provide a cost effective way to collect EMS patient care and hospital trauma data, allow access to a records management system for smaller Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies that could not afford their own system and support a mechanism for the reporting of information to the National Emergency Medical Services Information System for national benchmarking. It established a statewide EMS data repository, standardized data collection throughout California and broadened the number of counties reporting data to the state. Overall, it resulted in the addition of one and a half million records documenting patient care in 18 counties.

Integrating EMS and HIE: Health information exchange is the mobilization of health information between organizations and healthcare providers. It is a secure method of sharing vital patient information and is part of a national initiative designed to improve the quality of care, safety and efficiency of the health delivery system. During the past several years, Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency has been implementing processes that facilitate the exchange of health information between EMS providers and other organizations throughout San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties. In 2014, ICEMA proposed a pilot project to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority designed to evaluate ways to integrate EMS data into HIE. The ultimate goal was to improve the quality of healthcare for patients in the community and provide a new service to county residents that filled the gap in the provision of medical care by including EMS care data into the continuum of patient care. The pilot project, known as Integrating EMS and HIE, was completed in September 2015.

Child Support Services: The Department of Child Support Services utilizes the Bridges to Employment Program to assist parents toward employment and self-sufficiency, so they can support their children and families. The Bridges to Employment Program is a referral program made possible through collaboration between DCSS and the County's Workforce Development Board Our common goals are to retrain and find employment for unemployed or under-employed individuals, connect job seekers to employment that leads

to self-sufficient wage, educate the community on the negative impacts of dropping out of high school, provide adult intervention, tutoring, and mentorship to students, and set higher goals and expectations for educational and career achievement in our community.

Community Education Mental Health First Aid Training Program: The Department of Behavioral Health developed an active community education program focused on Mental Health First Aid © (MHFA). The primary goals of the community education program are to address stigma, decrease discrimination against persons with behavioral health disorders, and increase mental health awareness. DBH's outreach focused programs expend a considerable amount of time and effort conducting culture specific outreach and marketing MHFA training using various methods, resulting in high levels of community interest and active community participation. Targeted outreach and groups that have been represented include faith-based organizations, foster family agencies, foster parents, youth groups, and veterans serving groups. All of the community MHFA courses are provided for free and conducted in locations that are easily accessible to the community.

Effective Collaboration Improving Maternal Mental Health: The goal of the Maternal Mental Health Work Group, led by the County's Department of Behavioral Health, Children's Network, Department of Public Health, First 5 San Bernardino, and Inland Empire United Way 211, is three-fold: To identify and pull together existing resources in the community that support mothers experiencing postpartum depression, to build the capacity of organizations, such as family resource centers, healthcare providers, and Screening Assessment Referral and Treatment centers, through training on maternal mental health, to reduce the stigma that exists around maternal mental health issues through general and culturally-relevant campaigns and to encourage mothers to reach out for help. In May 2015, Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month, the Work Group in partnership with ISD-Multimedia Services, produced a public service announcement emphasizing to mothers and families, "You Are Not Alone."

Engaging Fathers in the Inland Empire: The Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition (IEFIC), started in 2013, is a group of community-based, County, and faith-based organizations collaborating to reduce father absenteeism and support father engagement. The IEFIC does this by providing education opportunities for fathers, support services that are accessible and father-friendly, outreach to develop partnerships and promote positive images of fatherhood through media and evaluation of the program's outcomes, and identification of best practices for father engagement. In 2015, the IEFIC launched its Inaugural Inland Empire Fatherhood Conference to inspire, educate and equip fathers to be actively engaged in their children's lives.

Family Stabilization: Utilizing a collaborative approach, the Transitional Assistance Department, Department of Behavioral Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, and community-based organizations are working together to address needs of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families customers experiencing multiple barriers to participating in Welfare-to-Work activities. The new Family Stabilization Program provides unique services, including treatment of all family members, rapid rehousing, car repairs, tattoo removal, and other services not available to customers who do not volunteer for the program. Proven measurable results include 2,415 instances of direct services provided to Family Stabilization individuals, improved interagency coordination and elimination of duplicate services.

Housing Support Program: The Transitional Assistance and Behavioral Health departments and the Housing Authority partnered and attained competitive Housing Support Program funding to fill a gap in services available to homeless Temporary Assistance for Needy Families customers. Housing Navigator services for families referred by Transitional Assistance are provided by the Housing Authority, through a sub-contract with Knowledge and Education for Your Success (KEYS), an HACSB affiliated local non-profit organization. Also, by leveraging an existing contract with Transitional Assistance and Behavioral Health, case management services related to locating permanent housing were included to address TANF families' needs for life skills training, service needs to remove barriers, and on-going support to prevent recurrences of homelessness. In 2015, more than 1,200 referrals were made to HSP, with 409 families successfully placed in permanent housing.

In-Home Supportive Services Program Integrity Initiatives: The Department of Aging and Adult Services in 2012 designed and implemented the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program Integrity Initiatives to ensure beneficiaries and caregivers under the program are reporting and claiming only legitimate benefits and payments. These internal processes have proven to be successful in enhancing IHSS program integrity and have resulted in cost savings in the IHSS program.

Stakeholder Engagement and Interagency Coordination: On April 1, 2014, the Department of Aging and Adult Services entered into an agreement with the Inland Empire Health Plan and Molina Healthcare of California to provide In-Home Supportive Services as a managed care benefit for the state's low-income seniors and people with disabilities who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid under California's Coordinated Care Initiative. Current findings confirm that the County's strong partnership and effective collaboration with health plans and other stakeholders are strengthening efforts to coordinate care for these seniors.

Support Group for Families of Conservatees: The Office of the Public Guardian is appointed by the Superior Court as the conservator for some of the most vulnerable people in our community: the elderly and the mentally ill. Communication and understanding are essential components when working with the families of persons who meet the criteria for conservatorship and at times there are gaps in providing these essential components. The Public Guardian recognized the gap in services and in response created the Family Support Group to provide families with an ongoing source of support as well as to clarify the responsibilities of the Public Guardian, demystify associated government entities, assist families in understanding their new roles, avoid duplication of efforts and provide the most comprehensive services possible to better serve the conservatees and enhance their quality of life.

TAD Leaders in Action (LiA) Workshop: The program works to foster individual professional development within the Transitional Assistance Department and increases knowledge of department administrative operations, which result in greater productivity, higher retention rates, succession planning, and improved customer service. The structured mentoring and learning environment ensures training consistency for both mentors and mentees, and a consistent message which includes: Decision making skills, global thinking/vision, interpersonal skills, and relationship building. The program consists of mentees attending several workshops, which include learning the basics of the TAD budget, discussing varying leadership styles, and interview preparation. Since the inception of the TAD LiA Workshop in 2014, the average

number of participants has remained consistent from quarter to quarter. Furthermore, participants have reported positive impacts attributed to participation, such as returning to school, receiving a promotion, taking on new duties in their current position, and enhanced interview skills.

Transitional Assistance Department Processing Center: The Transitional Assistance Department Processing Center was developed as a solution to maximize productivity and improve customer service in response to the expansion of health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA resulted in a dramatically increased number of health care program applications within short open enrollment periods. Since ACA initial open enrollment in 2013, through the end of open enrollment in 2015, TAD processed over 325,000 applications with no increase in staff. The County receives approximately 20,000 Medi-Cal applications per month during open enrollment periods, an increase of 25 percent from the previous two years. The Processing Center was developed to meet application processing timeframes and provide accurate benefits as quickly as possible with minimal impact to the customer.

Triage Engagement and Support Teams (TEST): In 2015, the Department of Behavioral Health formed the Triage Engagement and Support Teams and placed them in critical entry points where persons in crisis traditionally enter the criminal justice or inpatient hospital systems. The goal is to provide an alternative to consumers in psychiatric crisis who may have traditionally been hospitalized or incarcerated. In the first nine of the planned 17 sites, TEST has reduced unnecessary expenditures for law enforcement and hospitals by diverting 76 percent of crisis intervention encounters from hospitalization. TEST has further saved law enforcement resources by providing transportation to the hospital and accompanying the consumer during their hospital admission process in crisis intervention encounters that could not be diverted. The support provided by TEST, both to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations or incarcerations and after a client's release when hospitalization or incarceration cannot be avoided, enables consumers to break cycles of intense distress and crises by replacing them with ongoing engagement in the outpatient continuum of care.

Workforce Development Department Partnership: The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) partnered with the County's Workforce Development Department to secure three Workforce Development Specialists to work exclusively with HACSB program participants, helping them to find and retain work by providing them with career counseling, employment services workshops, job referrals, and job skills enhancement services. April 2013 through February 2016, the program has secured 325 jobs for low-income residents with salary ranges from \$8 to \$25 an hour.

Department of Behavioral Health Patient Rights Grievance Tracking Log: The Department of Behavioral Health's Patients' Rights Office protects the patient, consumer and human rights of all recipients of psychiatric services. The Patient's Rights Grievance Tracking Log is a web-based application designed to allow the DBH Patient's Group to efficiently track and report on grievance investigation, advocacy assistance, and other services for this purpose. Its main objectives are to allow storing all communications and complaints that are a part of a grievance as one electronic case file and keep track of time spent on all types of services requests for effective resource management in one place. Timely processing and resolution of each complaint received is key to compliance of mental health law as is the training of providers. The system ensures complaints and training are closely monitored to avoid any disruption in providing services per departmental and County objectives.

ISD Department Diversity Website: The mission of the Information Services Department's Diversity Committee is to work collaboratively to advocate and support diversity in our department while encouraging opportunities for employees, our customers (county departments) and communities to grow in their own understanding of diversity. This DDC initiative, spearheaded by the county's Human Resources Department is committed to attract, recruit and retain a skilled, high-performing and diverse workforce that reflects our strong commitment to equality and opportunities for all. The DDC embraces and celebrates the differences among employees in terms of age, cultural background, physical abilities and disabilities, race, language, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, and provides an opportunity for employees to thrive personally and professionally as they work together towards excellence for the employees and citizens of the County.

Leadership Training: The County Library believes in fostering employee engagement through training and development. As our system continues to grow and develop, the training needs of our staff have also changed. Because we cover a large geographic area, there is a need for consistency in leadership across our system. The main objective in providing Leadership Training is to give staff the opportunity to grow and develop as a manager. Leadership Training is a six-month course covering various topics that outline the responsibilities of lead staff members. There are a variety of leadership topics that are covered at each training session. Each session combines instruction/lecture components and a variety of practical exercises including role play scenarios, small group activities, an open forum for sharing experiences, and question and answer sessions.

Summer Reading Program: Revamp and Restructure: The Summer Reading Program is a read for rewards based program designed to encourage kids to read during the summer months. Studies show that children who read at least five books over the summer will maintain their reading level for the next school year. The purpose for revamping and restructuring our Summer Reading Program was to align our core values and the services we offer to the Countywide Vision's effort to support the success of every child from cradle to career. We wanted to develop a meaningful and exciting program that enriched people's lives, work with our community, and develop and train staff to provide the best program for people visiting our libraries. By revamping and restructuring our program we have been able to increase the number of children, teens, and adults reading during the summer months. We have increased circulation, participation, and strengthened our partnership with local schools in our communities. Lastly, we were able to engage our employees and offer an exciting program families can enjoy.

Coordination of Compensation and Benefits for Victims of the San Bernardino Terrorist Attack: The December 2, 2015 terrorist attack resulted in the death of 14 people, 13 of whom were County employees, and direct injury to an additional 22, all of whom were County staff. Recognizing the impact that this tragedy had on its employees and their families, the County partnered with state agencies to coordinate payments and help ensure that victims continued to receive full compensation and benefits. The Human Resources Department and District Attorney led efforts to integrate these payments as seamlessly as possible in order to protect income and benefit levels for the victims and, with support from the state, was able process California Victim Compensation lost wage benefits through the County payroll system.

BRASS Report: Attracting desirable development to our slowly recovering County economy depends upon

three key regulatory conditions: a timely permitting process, ready access to land use information, and a proactive guidance for developers through regulatory complexities. Concise reports on targeted lands and permitting requirements are compiled succinctly, made accessible through -multiple means, and used as a basis for planning new development to add economic value to our County. The BRASS Report begins with a now-standardized property information report, focused on building and zoning requirements. It addresses numerous land use application types. The report framework is integrated into all relevant County departments to eliminate duplicated efforts, maximize uniformity of data collection/reporting, and ensure accuracy of information disseminated by our inter-disciplinary team. With this program, the first application or inquiry generates the BRASS Report. Then the Report is provided to all subsequent inquiries, eliminating redundant time-consuming efforts by staff and inadvertent inconsistencies in property information.

By Staff Reports

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Supervisor wants explanation on Frontier service issues

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Robert Lovingood has asked a Frontier Communications executive to explain the ongoing service problems and is inviting the public to offer comments in preparation for a hearing July 12. At Lovingood's request, a Frontier representative is expected to appear at the July 12 meeting. Residents who are still having problems should send a summary to Supervisor Robert Lovingood, 12474 Cottonwood Ave., Suite A, Victorville, CA 92395 or SupervisorLovingood@SBCounty.gov.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/article/20160705/NEWS/160709887>

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Grand Jury: County child welfare agency turnover problematic

San Bernardino County's child welfare agency is marred by significant under-staffing and a disconnect with law enforcement assigned to investigate crimes involving children, the county's grand jury says in its recently released annual report.

Results of the year-long investigation Friday come about two weeks after the state Department of Justice announced it was also investigating county Children and Family Services, reviewing its "compliance with California laws intended to ensure the safety and well-being of children, including children in the dependency system."

In a statement, Marlene Hagen, director of county CFS, said the county welcomed — as it does with the state probe — the grand jury's findings and 14 subsequent recommendations, but Hagen also offered counter-statements to many of the grand jury's conclusions.

Citing interviews with several management-level employees, the 19-member citizen panel reported that worker turnover had grown from 15.5 to 23.8 percent between 2013-14 and 2014-15, resulting in roughly half of the agency's staff having less than two years of experience in child welfare.

One of three interviewed law enforcement officers told the grand jury that they believed social workers were "overwhelmed" by heavy caseloads.

At three visited agency field offices, social worker caseloads were reported to be no less than 30 and as high as 60, a stark contrast from the recommendations made by the Child Welfare League of America, which call for 12 cases involving investigation, 17 of family preservation and 12-15 for foster care.

At one field office, 43 vacancies accounted for 22 percent of the budgeted workforce at the location.

Hagen acknowledged the burden, pointing to "local socioeconomic conditions combined with difficulty in hiring, retaining and fully training enough staff."

"But this improving," she said, revealing that 227 social work staff members had been hired in the last 18 months. "However, due to the difficult nature of the job and the time it takes to train new staff, caseload relief is incremental and realized over time."

The increase represents nearly 47.3 percent of the workforce, county spokesman David Wert said.

Hagen added that the looming creation of a labor management committee will "seek to increase the number of caseworkers and reduce the size of caseloads."

One area of emphasis could be the position of senior social service practitioner, a role created by the Board of Supervisors in September 2014 to provide mentoring and training for new social workers, but one that has since gone largely unfulfilled.

The grand jury found just two of 65 authorized positions had been hired in October. By April, CFS officials said they had promoted 28 employees into the role and 24 more potential candidates had been identified for interviews. As of Tuesday, 35 practitioners have been hired, Wert said.

Three law enforcement officers and county counsel told the grand jury that more social worker training was necessary.

While Hagen described the relationship with law enforcement as "strong," saying meetings are ongoing with the sheriff's and San Bernardino police departments, interviews by the grand jury with the three law enforcement officers appear to indicate some disconnect in the perception.

Officers claimed social workers are "reluctant to remove abused and neglected children from their homes," having adopted the hard-line priority of family unification. Workers also "frequently" do not return phone calls from law enforcement and do not always inform officers of a child's location, which causes delays in investigations, they said.

Hagen underscored that social workers have no ability to unilaterally remove children from homes, but can only recommend or seek to do so; ultimately, the collaborative decision is up to the courts and law enforcement.

She also stressed that state and federal law "make it their priority to prevent or eliminate the need to remove children from their homes," and state regulations call for workers to document preventive efforts prior to a child's removal unless the child is in imminent danger.

The officers claimed that they aren't always informed of a scheduled interview at the Children's Assessment Center, where sexually and physically abused kids are given evidentiary medical exams. Law enforcement must be present for those interviews to occur.

Concluding that their investigations were sometimes potentially hindered, officers also described other areas of concern: Social workers close cases criminal in nature without contacting law enforcement; redact reports; and don't always coordinate with law enforcement before contacting persons of interest in ongoing investigations.

Releasing records to law enforcement is "routine," Hagen said, and it's "very rare" that law requires redacting information other than Social Security numbers. She noted that a social worker cannot close a case, but juvenile court can terminate jurisdiction over a minor. Even if that happens, it doesn't stop law enforcement from pushing forward with an ongoing probe, according to Hagen.

"Communication with law enforcement is critical to CFS investigations," she said, "which is why regular meetings are held with law enforcement to discuss and

address any issues that may arise."

Ultimately, the grand jury made a slew of recommendations, including forming a task force to determine the cause of high turnover among the workforce, introducing a system to review training effectiveness, establishing an independent oversight board of agency operations and improving law enforcement relations by furnishing complete and un-redacted reports.

To read the grand jury report in its entirety and view the additional recommendations, visit this story at VVDailyPress.com.

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160705/NEWS/160709892>

Print Page

Redlands Daily Facts (<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com>)

Additional funds for Valencia Grove Housing Project in Redlands focus of grand jury

Overruns blamed on departure of project's original contractor

By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts

Tuesday, July 5, 2016



REDLANDS >> An additional \$3.2 million to help fund the first phase of the Valencia Grove Housing Project here became the focus of a San Bernardino County grand jury investigation.

In its annual report released last week, the grand jury blames overrun costs on Clayton Homes, the project's original contractor, after the company "withdrew from (it) midway during construction."

"That contract," said the report, "comprised approximately 25 percent of the overall construction cost (and) brought the project to a standstill for approximately six months" resulting "in the cost overruns

exceeding the original construction loan."

A senior manager with the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County [asked for the additional funds during a Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 1](#). The original loan approved in February 2013 was \$2 million, but with the approval of the additional loan the project's cost totaled \$5.2 million.

A call to Clayton Homes late Tuesday went unanswered.

The grand jury decided to investigate the additional loan seven days after its approval, the report said.

Housing Authority cooperated with the investigation, which included interviews with department heads and a tour of the construction site, said Ana Gamiz, its director of policy and community affairs.

The Valencia Grove Housing Project replaces rental homes at the northeast corner of Orange Street and Lugonia Avenue that are more than 70 years old. The project, [which broke ground in August 2012](#), will have 228 units, a multi-use recreation center with a pool and three playgrounds.

Housing Authority and Housing Partners I Inc. are spearheading the project, which is funded through other sources, including grants, in addition to county funds.

The first phase of construction was completed earlier this year, with families moving in around late March. The site became fully occupied in April, said Gus Joslin, Housing Authority's deputy executive director.

The project saw various delays in construction since its ground breaking in addition to its original contractor pulling out. Among the delays was from the widening of Lugonia and Orange, required before construction could begin.

The multi-million dollar Valencia Grove project is made possible through a partnership with the county housing authority, Chase Bank, PNC Bank, Perera Construction, the city of Redlands and the Redlands Unified School District.

The second phase of the project is expected to begin once funds are available, Joslin said.

URL: <http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20160705/additional-funds-for-valencia-grove-housing-project-in-redlands-focus-of-grand-jury>

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SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: All United Way money given to victims

By [RYAN HAGEN](#)

2016-07-05 17:02:04



All of the \$2.5 million given to Arrowhead United Way on behalf of victims of the Dec. 2 terrorist attack has been distributed to those victims, the organization announced Tuesday, July 5.

The San Bernardino United Relief Fund Committee decided in March how to divide the money: 80 percent to the families of the 14 people killed in the attack, 15.5 percent to those taken to the hospital with injuries and 4.5 percent for witnesses to the shooting.

That's a total of 75 people eligible for compensation, but two wounded law enforcement officers declined the assistance, according to Ashley

Kaplan of Westbound Communications, which sent a news release on behalf of United Way.

Victims' families said at the time that they deeply appreciated the donation, and they repeated that gratitude Tuesday in the news release.

"No amount of money can bring back those lives lost or changed forever in the terrorist attack," Arlen Verdehyou, husband of victim Bennetta Betbadal, is quoted as saying, "but the generous financial contributions from strangers shows how this community is committed to rebuilding lives."

Before he received his portion of the donated money, Verdehyou made a donation of his own to Arrowhead United Way to thank it, according to the news release.

Contact the writer: ryan.hagen@langnews.com or @rmhagen on Twitter

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Arrowhead United Way distributes \$2.5M to victims and families of Dec. 2 terrorist attack

Posted: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 10:37 am

SB United Relief Fund Committee allocating 100% of funds collected

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (July 5, 2016) – Arrowhead United Way has distributed the \$2.5 million generously donated to the San Bernardino United Relief Fund as a show of support for the victims affected by the Dec. 2 tragedy. The independent San Bernardino United Relief Fund Committee determined distribution allotments, with 100 percent of the funds donated going to those affected.

Thousands of donations from national and local corporations, organizations, foundations, tribes and individuals contributed to the fund created for the victims of the tragedy. After Arrowhead United Way established the fund and partnered with the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors it received major donations from The Albertsons Companies Foundation and The Vons Foundation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Muslims United for San Bernardino, Hangar 24 Charities, and MobileCause App users.

"When we heard the news of this tragic act, we knew we had a responsibility to act and support the victims and their families. Our employees and customers across Southern California were humbled and proud to partner with the Arrowhead United Way, and do our part to help during this time of need," said Albertsons, Vons and Pavilions President Lori Raya.

In total, 73 victims were identified as beneficiaries of the fund, which included families of the deceased, the injured and those in the room at the time of the shooting. Arlen Verdehyou was one recipient that saw the importance of the funds to help families rebuild.

"No amount of money can bring back those lives lost or changed forever in the terrorist attack," said Verdehyou, husband of victim Bennetta Betbadal, "but the generous financial contributions from strangers shows how this community is committed to rebuilding lives."

Before receiving his allotment, Verdehyou made a generous contribution to Arrowhead United Way to thank the organization for its work with the Relief Fund. "You can't put a price on the sense of unity you feel when working together to help others," he said. "Arrowhead United Way helped to bring us together to support our community as we heal."

Local organizations and businesses were among the first to grow the fund. The objective of the fund was to connect those affected by the incident with donations that may yield some support and comfort in a time of catastrophe.

"At Morongo, we are humbled to lend our support to the victims and the families whose lives were shattered by this atrocity. We are proud to stand with so many others in the community who have come together in hopes of providing solace and aid to those left grieving," said Morongo Tribal Chairman Robert

Martin.

· “San Manuel is proud to ‘Stand Strong with San Bernardino’ as those families whose lives are forever changed by the tragic events of December 2 endeavor to recover. We are honored to be working as one community with the San Bernardino United Relief Fund committee,” said Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Bill seeks to have state reimburse cost of response to San Bernardino attack

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

A bill to have the state reimburse local governments for the full cost of the response to the San Bernardino terrorist attack — estimated at more than \$19 million — is moving through the Legislature.

Senator Connie Leyva, D-Chino, authored the bill, and last week Assemblyman Marc Steinorth, R-Rancho Cucamonga, moved the bill in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee.

It is scheduled to be considered by Assembly Appropriations Committee later this summer.

Current law makes responding agencies eligible for up to 75 percent of the cost not covered by federal financial assistance, according to Leyva. The U.S. Department of Justice approved \$500,000 in reimbursement in June.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160705/bill-seeks-to-have-state-reimburse-cost-of-response-to-san-bernardino-attack>

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Assemblyman Steinorth Moves Legislation to Bring CA Disaster Assistance Act Funds to San Bernardino

Posted: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 3:50 pm

Last week, Assemblyman Steinorth moved SB 1385 (Leyva) in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee to provide financial relief for one hundred percent of total eligible costs connected with the December 2, 2015 terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino County. The measure is supported by the County of San Bernardino and the City of San Bernardino, as well as the county's District Attorney and Sheriff's Department.

"I am proud to support this legislation to reimburse the local agencies for the incredible job our first responders did to protect our citizens on December 2nd," said Assemblyman Steinorth. "It is an honor to bring this funding back to our community, and to ensure we may continue the great service of our first responders and local governments."

The California Disaster Assistance Act is the primary funding mechanism available for recovering local costs in response to acts of terrorism, which the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) oversees. This tragedy is the first terrorist attack for which OES is responsible for determining what costs will be eligible for reimbursement. The estimated cost in responding to the San Bernardino terrorist attack exceeds \$19 million and, without further state help, local agencies would be financially penalized for their rapid and comprehensive response to this tragedy. SB 1385 will prevent that from happening and make the local agencies whole.

Assemblyman Steinorth represents the 40th Assembly District which includes Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino, Highland, Loma Linda, and Redlands

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Assemblyman Steinorth hosting pet adoption event again this summer

Marc Steinorth will sponsor cost of first 100 pets

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Facts

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

REDLANDS >> People looking to take in a new furry family member this summer, will have an opportunity to do so Aug. 5 and 6 at a reduced cost.

Assemblyman Marc Steinorth and the Humane Society of the United States will again host the Steinorth 100 Pet Adoption Event on Aug. 5 and 6 at the Redlands Animal Shelter.

Steinorth will sponsor the cost of the first 100 pets, to encourage the adoption of shelter animals but to also bring awareness to legislation pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[Assembly Bill 976](#), introduced by Steinorth last year, would offer a tax reduction of up to \$100 for people who adopt a pet 4 years and older or a cat from a nonprofit shelter or rescue.

“This brings awareness to that legislation,” Steinorth said. “And it points out why and how a tax incentive or a monetary incentive will make a difference in people’s decision on how to choose their animals.”

Steinorth said with four weeks left in session, the committee can still choose to act on the legislation. If the bill fails, he said he will try again.

“I understand how absolutely valuable it is for us to not only find forever homes for our furry friends, but also this is really good government,” Steinorth said. “Local government spends about \$130 million a year in maintaining their shelters.”

By reducing the pet population in city or county run shelters, more taxpayer dollars could be used toward public safety, roads and schools, Steinorth said.

The Redlands City Council on Tuesday considered reducing adoption fees to \$30 for dogs and \$30 for cats adopted at the shelter during the event.

Bill Miller, animal services supervisor, said 68 pets were adopted at last year’s event.

“It was our biggest adoption day ever,” Miller said.

Miller said they are already signing up volunteers to help this year.

Steinorth’s adoption event is also planned for Aug. 5-7 at the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Adoption Center and the Devore Animal Shelter; as well as Aug. 5 and 6 at the San Bernardino Animal Shelter.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/lifestyle/20160705/assemblyman-steinorth-hosting-pet-adoption-event-again-this-summer>

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Animal shelters busiest after July 4th fireworks panic pets

By Michael J. Williams, The Press-Enterprise

Tuesday, July 5, 2016



Officials at the Redlands Animal Shelter spent Fourth of July picking up animals spooked by fireworks.

Two patrolmen picked up three animals in the field Monday, while another five were brought to the shelter, said Animal Control Supervisor Officer Bill Miller.

Of the eight, five were returned to their owners as of Tuesday morning, while three are still waiting to be retrieved. The shelter also picked up four dead dogs and two dead cats, he said.

“There was a whole weekend of lots of fireworks,” Miller said. “They started Friday and are tapering off today.”

Animal shelters throughout the region are busiest during and just after the Fourth of July weekend, when fireworks and firecrackers drive panicked dogs and cats to flee their residences.

The San Bernardino County animal shelter in Devore took in 31 dogs and 30 cats from Saturday to Monday, according to the facility’s animal impound report.

People who have lost a pet should check all local animal shelter facilities that serve the specific region in which the pet was lost, according to Brian Cronin, chief of San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control. Also, many shelters post pictures and a description of the pets admitted to their facilities on their respective websites.

For those who lost their pets over the weekend, the visit to the shelter can be traumatic.

“It’s a stressful, stressful moment to think, ‘Is my dog here? If it’s not here, where the heck is it? Is it running around in the street? Is it deceased?’” said John Welsh, spokesman for Riverside County Animal Services.

On the other hand, being reunited with a lost pet is a joyous moment for most, including Dena Smith of Riverside and Izabel Pedroza of Corona.

Smith recovered her lost German Shepard, Layla, from the shelter in Jurupa Valley.

Pedroza and her daughters, 8-year-old Emily and 6-year-old Analicia, have been in a state of despair since the disappearance of their 11-month-old kitten, Mavis.

“She went missing like two days ago because she got scared because of all the fireworks, and she’s not one to run out,” Pedroza said. “I was so worried because she’s not an outside cat.”

Fortunately, the cat had been implanted with a microchip when Pedroza adopted it from the western shelter. Information on the chip includes her phone number.

“Oh my God, I’m so happy,” she said as they left the shelter with their kitten. “Really, my heart was like pounding when I found her.”

A list of shelters serving San Bernardino County can be found on the county’s website at:
www.sbcounty.gov/dph/acc/programs/shelter_services/shelter_services_local_shelters.asp

Staff writers Kristina Hernandez and Doug Saunders contributed to this report

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20160705/animal-shelters-busiest-after-july-4th-fireworks-panic-pets>

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HOUSING: Inland prices up another 6 percent

2016-07-05 17:58:08



Inland housing prices in May rose by 6 percent over a year earlier – a plus for sellers but another signal that homes in the area are more expensive than average earners can afford.

The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area also posted a 0.9 percent increase in the price of homes over the previous month.

The figures are from CoreLogic, a global property information, analytics and data-enabled services provider.

Locally, the increase comes as homebuyers pick through a tight inventory looking for homes they can afford.

When comparing the monthly mortgage of a median-priced home with the monthly net income of a median-earning worker, the affordability index already perceived an imbalance, even before the May numbers were released.

The median price of a Riverside County home in May was \$330,000 and in San Bernardino County was \$255,000.

Going in the other direction were median incomes for Inland wage-earners. In 2008 the Census Bureau estimated median incomes in the area at \$59,547. By 2011 the figure had fallen to \$53,201 and in 2012 median wages were listed at \$51,695.

The bureau said Inland median incomes suffered the biggest drop of all the 25 biggest metro areas in the country.

Nonetheless, the national picture had CoreLogic's top economist thinking positive.

"Housing remained an oasis of stability in May with home prices rising year over year between 5 percent and 6 percent for 22 consecutive months," said Dr. Frank Nothaft. "The consistently solid growth in home prices has been driven by the highest resale activity in nine years and a still-tight housing inventory."

"Price appreciation continues to be fairly broad-based across the U.S. From a regional perspective, the Pacific Northwest continues to be the hottest area for home-price growth, with Oregon and Washington leading the way," said Anand Nallathambi, president and CEO of CoreLogic. "The recent turbulence in financial markets should lead to modestly lower mortgage rates, which will provide even more support to the steadily improving real estate recovery."

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ZIKA: First case confirmed in southwest Riverside County

By [SUZANNE HURT](#)

2016-07-05 13:56:07



Riverside County public health officials on Tuesday, July 5, reported a local resident is sick with the Zika virus after returning from the Caribbean – becoming the county’s first known case of the disease as the number of cases in the U.S. and U.S. territories, including in pregnant women, continues to grow.

The 50-year-old man tested positive for the primarily mosquito-borne virus after returning in mid-June from visiting the Dominican Republic, where the insects are known to carry Zika, according to Riverside County Department of Public Health spokesman Jose Arballo Jr.

Health officials believe the man, who lives in southwest Riverside County, became infected during his travel outside the United States. The state public health department confirmed the infection last week.

The man was not hospitalized and is expected to make a full recovery.

“How long it takes you to recover can vary quite a bit from person to person,” Arballo said.

Zika infection in pregnant women can cause severe fetal brain defects including microcephaly, and is believed to sometimes trigger Guillain-Barré syndrome, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The city the Riverside County man lives in is not being disclosed to protect the man’s confidentiality. Health officials don’t know of any of his family members being sick, Arballo said.

Riverside County joins four other Southern California counties with confirmed Zika cases. As of July 1, Los Angeles County reported 19 cases, San Diego County had 16, Orange County had 6 and San Bernardino County had 3, according to the California Department of Public Health’s website.

Imperial and Ventura counties remain Southern California’s only counties without confirmed Zika cases. Imperial County had no cases as of Tuesday, July 5, said health department spokeswoman Maria Peinado.

On March 25, California public health director Dr. Karen Smith announced the first confirmed case of Zika virus acquired in California after a woman got sick following sex with an infected man who had traveled.

However, the state has revised its report, in line with the CDC, to say the confirmed cases all involve people exposed to Zika through travel to an affected area or contact with a traveler.

The number of Zika cases reported to the CDC’s arboNETcq in the U.S. and Washington, D.C., grew from 820 as of June 22 to 935 by June 29, and in U.S. territories from 1,860 June 22 to 2,026 by June 29.

In the U.S., one case was acquired in a lab and the rest were travel-related, with 13 spread through sex. In U.S. territories, all but six cases were locally acquired, according to the CDC.

The number of pregnant women who have tested positive for Zika in the U.S. and Washington, D.C., grew from 265 as of June 16 to 287 by June 23, and from 216 in U.S. territories to 250.



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: Should schools have unisex bathrooms?

By [JOE NELSON](#)

2016-07-05 17:22:39



The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, by the beginning of the next school year, should convert as many student restrooms as possible to unisex restrooms to ensure the rights of transgender students, the grand jury is recommending.

The recommendations, included in the grand jury's annual report released Friday, July 1, were made in response to an increasing number of lawsuits filed on behalf of transgender students, alleging discrimination in public schools, which have resulted in large monetary settlements paid out by school districts nationwide.

The grand jury recommendations are also in response to Assembly Bill 1266, signed by Gov. Brown in 2013 and now being challenged in the courts, that allow transgender students to use the restroom and locker room specific to their gender preference.

INVESTIGATION

During its investigation, the grand jury interviewed administrators at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the Redlands Unified School District and Colton Joint Unified School District, and reviewed state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the civil rights of the LGBT community, mainly transgender students.

Among the grand jury's findings:

- The schools and district offices visited by the grand jury do not have any unisex restrooms or locker rooms for transgender students, but transgender students are provided access to restrooms in nurse's offices or faculty restrooms.
- No planning or cost analysis has been done on the

modification/conversion of students restrooms and locker rooms to unisex, or construction of unisex restrooms and locker rooms, should AB 1266 be upheld.

- There is no manual for teachers and administrators to address transgender issues.
- Schools and school districts do not specifically identify transgender or gender identity as a protected class in their harassment and discrimination policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The grand jury has recommended, among other things:

- The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools create a task force to determine the financial impact of AB 1266 if it is upheld and required construction at schools to provide the necessary amenities for transgender students.
- Prior to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, convert as many restrooms as possible to unisex restrooms
- Include specific language acknowledging transgender or gender identity in all policies, procedures and documents relating to discrimination, harassment and bullying
- Survey teachers and administrators in elementary, middle, and high schools on necessary training to increase their knowledge and ability to properly handle transgender situations

NATIONAL SURVEY

According to a national survey conducted in 2011, sponsored by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force titled, "Injustice at Every Turn," 26 percent of transgender or gender non-conforming students in all educational settings reported being denied access to gender-appropriate facilities, including bathrooms. Additionally, 78 percent of surveyed students in grades K-12 reported "alarming rates of harassment, while 35 percent reported being physically assaulted, and 12 percent reported being victims of sexual violence. The harassment was so severe it led to nearly one-sixth – 15 percent – of those surveyed to leave school.

Additionally, 6 percent of those surveyed reported being expelled from school due to their gender identity/expression, while 31 percent reported being harassed by teachers or other staff; 5 percent reported being physically assaulted by teachers or staff, and 3 percent reported being sexually assaulted by teachers or staff, according to the survey.

In a recent interview, Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said the 2011 survey was recently redone as the United States Transgender Survey, the results of which will soon be published.

ADMINISTRATORS RESPOND

Colton Joint Unified School District spokeswoman Jacquie Paul said district officials are declining comment at this time, deferring to the findings in the grand jury report.

Dan Evans, spokesman for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, said the issues addressed by the grand jury are ones with which school districts throughout the state are confronting. He cited state legislation also referred to in the grand jury report that gives transgender students the right to access restrooms and locker rooms based on the gender with which they identify.

"The reality is that for California schools, a lot of these issues have been addressed by previous legislation," he said. "Certainly, Assembly Bill 1266 really directly impacts this issue, so it's not that this issue is one that's really new for education to have to consider."

He said he believes the two school districts examined in the grand jury report, Colton and Redlands "are fairly representative of what is taking place in our county, in that schools are supporting these students on an individual basis and providing accommodations to make sure they are comfortable and not being discriminated against."

Evans said he does not know yet whether the superintendent would follow the jury's recommendation to set up

task forces addressing various transgender student rights' issues at schools.

"I'm sure it is one that will certainly be discussed," Evans said, noting that the agency has a task force this year on African-American student achievement.

Redlands Unified Superintendent Lori Rhodes said it is a big undertaking, both in policy, process and procedure, to convert existing student restrooms to unisex restrooms.

"But we will certainly review the report closely," said Rhodes. "We were pleased that the report findings were in support of everything we're doing in Redlands."

Rhodes said the district is very aware of making sure transgender students are comfortable using the restroom of their identifying sex.

"You can see we've been very proactive in providing information on anything that's about transgender rights, including things from the (state) Department of Education or Title IX or those kinds of things," she said.

Staff writers Michael J. Williams and Sandra Emerson contributed to this report.

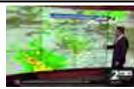
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NEWS



Reports: Verizon to increase plan prices, but add more data



Storms, strong wind and lightning ahead



Atlanta midfi



Bill Rankin

KKK wins partial victory in 'Adopt-A-Highway' case

© July 5, 2016 | Filed in: [ajc-dsl](#), [courts and law](#).

The Ku Klux Klan's legal bid to participate to participate in Georgia's "Adopt-A-Highway" program may proceed to trial, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

In a unanimous opinion, the state high court ruled against the Department of

Transportation's [attempt to scuttle the case](#), saying the agency failed to follow correct procedure in filing its appeal. In fact, the Supreme Court said it lacked jurisdiction to consider the state's appeal.

For several years, the white supremacist group has been trying to get its name on "Adopt-A-Highway" road signs on a one-mile stretch of Ga. 515 in Union County near the North Carolina state line. The KKK filed suit against the state Department of Transportation over the issue in 2012.



Members of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan on Ga. 515 in north Georgia where they want to pick up trash. State officials had turned them down because they don't want to erect signs noting the Klan "adopted" that portion. AP Photo

The suit was filed a few months [after the DOT rejected the "Adopt-A-Highway" request from April Chambers and Harley Hanson](#), members of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. In a letter, the state said it was denying the application based on the KKK's ["long-rooted history of civil disturbance"](#) and the ["potential for social unrest."](#)

Georgia's "Adopt-A-Highway" program was created in 1989 and is administered by the DOT. Its purpose is to enlist volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. Volunteers accepted into the program adopt at least a one-mile stretch of highway and agree to clean up both sides of the road at least four times a year over a two-year period. In return, the state erects signs bearing the party's name on both sides of the highway.

In the KKK's lawsuit, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shawn LaGrua ruled that rationale "represents an unconstitutional infringement on an applicant's right of free speech. The judge further prohibited the DOT from

7/6/2016

KKK wins partial victory in 'Adopt-A-Highway' case | Bill Rankin's Legal Brief

“denying applications to the [program] for public concern related to a group’s history of civil disturbance.”

The state had appealed that ruling to the Georgia Supreme Court. The case now returns to LaGrua’s court headed to trial.



EDITORIAL: The bullet train (still) to nowhere

2016-07-05 19:15:05

We have become accustomed over the years to the California High-Speed Rail Authority's bogus numbers, wildly optimistic assumptions, lack of realistic planning and baseless promises of tens of billions of dollars in private-sector or federal funds. Now, another excellent report on the disastrous project by Ralph Vartabedian of the Los Angeles Times finds that the beleaguered rail authority hid evidence provided by a private-sector bidder that supports what critics of the project have been saying from the beginning: There is no way the system will be able to operate without massive ongoing government subsidies.

The latest revelation came from a bid proposal from Spanish multinational infrastructure developer Ferrovial, which earlier this year ended up winning its bid to construct a 22-mile segment of the project south of Fresno for \$348 million.

"More than likely, the California high-speed rail will require large government subsidies for years to come," Ferrovial stated in its proposal. However, as the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office pointed out in a 2010 report, "The Proposition 1A bond measure explicitly prohibits any public operating subsidy."

The subsidies would be par for the course for high-speed rail projects. Ferrovial reportedly conducted its own analysis of 111 high-speed rail lines around the world and found that only three generated enough revenue to cover their operating costs, which do not even include the capital costs of building the systems and buying the train cars.

This stands in stark contrast to the Authority's repeated claims that high-speed rail systems around the world are practically universally profitable. When Assemblyman Jim Patterson, R-Fresno, asked Authority Chairman Dan Richards during an April legislative hearing if he knew of any profitable HSR operations, Mr. Richards boasted, "Actually all of them, virtually all of them, make operating profit."

The rail authority compounded its error by scrubbing the company's warning from the version it posted online, which was only discovered after a data disk containing the original version was obtained by the Times and others through a Public Records Act request.

The Authority has a history of suppressing unflattering information. In October, it was revealed that a 2013 report by lead contractor Parsons Brinckerhoff had forecast a \$9 billion (31 percent) increase in the cost of the Burbank-Merced segment, and was told by Authority officials to adjust its calculations to the lower official cost estimate. That, too, was only uncovered by a Public Records Act request.

Everything we have seen from the High-Speed Rail Authority since the bond was narrowly passed in 2008 has proven that numbers are just playthings it uses to try to justify an unjustifiable project and keep the money coming in a little bit longer, and that the government cannot be trusted with tens of billions of taxpayer dollars to build and manage the system.

If there truly is a market for such a project, let the government get out of the way and allow it to be built. Otherwise, stop wasting the taxpayers' money on a fanciful and deceptive project that bears little resemblance to what voters approved eight years ago.



TRANSPORTATION: The most important local commission that people don't know about

By [TOM SHERIDAN](#)

2016-07-05 17:40:10



One ALUC member calls it the most important local commission that people in the region don't know about.

But Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough appeared all too familiar with the authority of the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, better known as ALUC, when he said at a city council meeting in April: "I have a problem with other people telling us how to run our city."

Three developments in Perris – two residential and one commercial – have come under the scrutiny of ALUC in recent months because of their proximity to March Air Reserve Base, which for most of the second half of the 20th century operated as an Air Force base until it was realigned as a reserve base in 1996 by the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission, or BRAC.

ALUC is charged with developing airport land use and compatibility plans for the airports in the county.

"The purpose of ALUC is to protect people from the airports, and airports from the people," said Simon Housman, chairman of the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission.

Its rulings don't have the power of law; ALUC can only issue recommendations.

Its business involves the Air Force brass who run the base; the entities surrounding the base including the cities of Perris, Riverside and Moreno Valley, and the County of Riverside, which represents a couple of swaths of unincorporated land bracketing MARB; and the developers who undertake projects that fall into the base's compatibility zone footprint.

Housman says airports are industrial operations which extend hundreds of feet into the air, but are normally only visible when an airplane is landing or taking off. MARB is different from every other airport in the county due to the military component, according to Housman.

"If one of those Air Force aircraft crashes on landing it's going to take out six city blocks," he said.

Yarbrough's comments came as the city council deliberated the fate of a 228-unit multi-family residential development proposed for a 17-acre parcel off Orange Avenue and Perris Boulevard about three miles from March Air Reserve Base.

Jay Pierce, a former president of the Riverside County Chapter of the Building Industry of Southern California, is the project's developer. He was at the city council in April seeking an overrule of ALUC's inconsistency determination.

The residential development fell into compatibility zone C-2, one of the seven protected zones surrounding the air base according to ALUC's MARB compatibility plan.

The compatibility plans take into consideration both safety and noise concerns.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said that when he moved to the city in 1975 the B-52 bomber was still flying in and out of March. Busch said if one of those stratospheric fortresses got a little off path, it would rattle the entire house.

It is different these days; according to Busch, builders have more soundproofing tools in their box.

During a hearing in June about another residential project which ALUC kicked back to the city – a 77-unit single-family development just over a mile away from Pierce's – developer Tom Mungari discussed some of the ways he planned to mitigate airport noise, with extra soundproofing in the walls, special insulation and dual-paned windows.

The City Council voted to override the ALUC's recommendation and move ahead with the project.

With Pierce's project, the City Council went with the ALUC's recommendation to reduce the density, paring 26 units from his plan. The project, now a 202-unit development, is scheduled to go back before the council later this summer.

"The city has taken up (ALUC's) rules on density," said Pierce. "The way to say it is they're going to override, but they're going to make us conform to the density that the ALUC commission had."

Another Perris development that found itself in the crosshairs of concern from base leadership is a proposed 185,500-square-foot, \$31 million textile plant, most of which sits in an area the Air Force has designated as Accident Potential Zone I.

ALUC actually gave a recommendation for approval for that project after prescribing requirements for mitigation. But Air Force Brig. Gen. Russell Muncy, the base commander, still raised objections.

"The desire is to minimize density along these corridors," said Muncy at a meeting of the March Joint Powers Authority. "Ideally, if an airplane were to come out of the sky, you want it to hit nothing."

Housman said Air Force's Accident Potential Zone is similar to ALUC's Compatibility Zone B, "but some specific areas are not exactly the same."

He said the commission and base are in the process of ironing out some of those details.

Lake Elsinore Councilman Steve Manos, the ALUC commissioner who called it the most important commission people don't know about, said that when compared to the other airports in the county, "March is run like a tight drum."

ALUC's monthly meeting agendas support that claim. Between January and June of this year there was just one meeting that did not include business related to MARB.

And in terms of the base, projects in Perris come under more scrutiny than those of Riverside, Moreno Valley and unincorporated areas of the county.

"The way that March Air Reserve Base is configured probably impacts Perris more than other cities," said Manos.

Landings on its 13,300-foot main runway come right over the city.

Perris Councilwoman Tonya Burke believes one pathway to a solution for the current situation is engagement.

"I understand the process," said Burke. "I understand the purpose: it's a very important purpose.

"Moving forward, the piece that we need to take on as a city is communicating with developers in these particular zones and areas affected by ALUC and the base. I think in the future the communication with ALUC and the base has to get better. ... The conversation has to happen earlier on."

Contact the writer: 951-368-9682 or tsheridan@pe.com

Vision2Read Family Sleepover will be held after Inland Empire 66ers baseball game on July 16

Posted: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 10:21 am

Local residents are invited to bring their tents and sleeping bags for a fun night at the Vision2Read Family Sleepover following the Inland Empire 66ers baseball game on Saturday, July 16.

The game begins at 7:05 p.m. at San Manuel Stadium in San Bernardino. Following the game, families are invited to camp overnight in the outfield and watch a movie made from an all-time favorite book, "The Princess Bride."

Tickets to the game and Family Sleepover may be purchased for \$15 at Vision2Read.com.

"This is a great way to spend a fun evening with your family and raise awareness about the importance of reading," said James Ramos, chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

A hot dog and soda will be provided during the game. Ice cream will be served during the movie. Coffee and light refreshments will be available in the morning.

The stadium is at 280 South E Street in San Bernardino. Security will be provided throughout the event.

Vision2Read, a year-long literacy initiative of the Countywide Vision project, aims to raise the bar on literacy in the county by focusing on the importance of reading, connecting people who need help or who can help to literacy resources.

Sixty-nine percent of San Bernardino County third graders do not meet new California English language arts and literacy standards and 32 million adults nationwide can't read. Literacy has an impact on a number of elements in the local area, such as jobs and the economy, education, public safety and wellness.



HIGHLAND: Deputy shoots, wounds armed man, officials say

By [DOUG SAUNDERS](#)

2016-07-05 17:43:04



A report of a man with a gun Monday night in Highland resulted in a violent turn of events that would send one man to the hospital.

Shortly after 8 p.m., a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy responded to the call at a home in the 7700 block of Eucalyptus Drive. Prior to the deputy's arrival, the woman making the claim said the man with a gun was threatening her, a sheriff's news release said.

Once on scene, the deputy found two men walking in the front yard of the home. That's when sheriff's officials say the incident took a swift turn.

According to the news release, one of the two men pointed a handgun at the deputy, who in response fired his duty weapon and struck the armed

man.

The suspect was taken to an area hospital, where he's being treated, officials added. His wounds are not considered to be life-threatening, officials said.

The deputy also was taken to an area hospital to be treated for glass fragments to his face and eyes.

Detectives found two handguns at the scene. Sheriff's officials are still trying to positively identify the gunman.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Tina Kirby at 909-387-3589.

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Redlands uses alligators to save water (and avoid a \$61K fine)



Irrigation of a citrus grove in Redlands, CA. Flickr user cyclotourist via Creative Commons

The City of Redlands will not have to pay a \$61,000 fine for failing to meet state mandatory water conservation standards.

Instead, the city will spend an equivalent amount of money on a water education campaign that features two water savvy alligators. The city will also help curtail outdoor water use in the city's many citrus groves.

Redlands was one of [four California water districts](#) that was fined for using too much water in 2015, the year Gov. Jerry Brown announced the first-ever statewide mandatory water restrictions.

The State Water Resources Control Board officials had told Redlands to cut its water use by 36 percent compared to the same period in 2013, but the city missed that goal. It only cut its water use by 27 percent cumulatively. The City of Redlands did not respond to requests for comment on the settlement.

(See [Redlands'](#) water use over time, or [any other water agency](#) in the state.)

Of the four districts fined last year, three settled with the state and developed alternative conservation programs. Only Beverly Hills paid its \$61,000 fine, the maximum penalty allowed. The Coachella Valley Water District created a drought landscaping certification that will be required for all landscapers in the valley before

renewing their license. The Indio Water Authority designed a water education program for disadvantaged schools, a new website where customers can track their water use in real time and a series of rebates.

Redlands decided to focus on inefficient outdoor water use. It created a new incentive to encourage some of its largest water users, orchards and citrus groves, to switch to more efficient irrigation. The City also decided to teach its youngest water users to get excited about saving water. Elementary-school kids in Redlands will soon meet two alligators, Ira the irriGATOR, who wastes water, and Era the investiGATOR, who reports water waste. (The city is seeking bids for the design and illustration of the Ira/Era storyline, so creative types, take note.)

Jasmine Oaxaca, a water resource control engineer with the state water board, said working with communities on a conservation settlement is more collaborative than hitting them with a fine. But there's no way of knowing how much the incentives and the alligators will actually help Redlands save water: the state doesn't track water savings from education and incentive programs.

Still, settlements may lead to longer lasting water conservation than a one-time fine, according to Brian Gray, a senior fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California.

"Sixty-one thousand dollars is not going to be sufficient to effectuate any meaningful change in behavior," he said. "Having an agreement where the city agrees to fund and implement conservation and efficiency measure that should have long-term effects, I think that's definitely better than simply collecting the \$61,000."

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There's no drought for Montclair water customers

By Neil Nisperos, *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

Tuesday, July 5, 2016



MONTCLAIR >> Water customers in Montclair and nearby unincorporated areas are no longer operating in emergency drought conditions, although the [Monte Vista Water District](#) continues to encourage residents to keep up conservation efforts.

The action to lift its “significant water supply shortage” declaration, according to the district, was in response to [changes in state emergency regulations](#) allowing water agencies to gauge their own water supply during the drought.

Expanding district infrastructure in recent years to hold more water and pump more water from the ground, in addition to customer conservation habits, allowed the district to ease mandatory reductions, said district General Manager Mark Kinsey.

“We were able to reduce imported water usage and increase use of local groundwater supplies,” Kinsey said. “We actually accomplished that through both the construction of eight new wells over the last 15 years.” Altogether, the district now captures an additional 24 million gallons a day.

Meanwhile, between June 2015 and May 2016, district customers reduced water use by 22 percent compared to 2013, meeting their state-mandated reduction goal, said Justin Scott-Coe, spokesman for the district.

The [Cucamonga Valley Water District announced](#) similar moves last week.

The Monte Vista Water District has 12,000 active accounts, including residences and businesses. It serves an area of about 10 square miles, which includes the city of Montclair, portions of Chino and the unincorporated areas between Montclair, Chino and Pomona. It also serves as a water wholesaler to the city of Chino Hills.

“I would certainly like to congratulate our customers on meeting the state’s mandated demand reduction goals through their water-use efficiency,” Kinsey said. “Through our long-time efforts to increase water-use efficiency, we were able to meet the reductions without any financial impacts to our overall revenue stream.”

Over a longer period, customers have reduced water use by nearly 40 percent over the past decade, Scott-Coe said, by responding to the district’s tiered rates which reward conservation.

Throughout the state-mandated reduction period, Scott-Coe said the district did not need to introduce any additional drought-related reduction rates, therefore, customers won’t necessarily see a smaller water bill.

“We have not needed to implement the demand-reduction rates, but they’re available if we have to reduce demands further than expected in the future,” Scott-Coe said.

In May, the State Water Resources Control Board changed the way agencies were able to identify their water savings, officials said, and allowed local agencies to set their own conservation standard based on water supply availability.

The district has presented its customers with mandatory year-round water use efficiency best practices, which include:

- Watering only between 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. for no more than 15 minutes per day per valve
- No run-off allowed
- No watering during and after rainfall
- Repairing all system leaks
- Use of shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles
- No hosing down pavement

The district will continue to enforce the measures to eliminate water waste, as well as provide programs and services to help customers use water as efficiently as possible, Scott-Coe said.

The district, Scott-Coe said, has supply availability over the next three years, under ongoing drought conditions.

Information: www.mvwd.org

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URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20160705/theres-no-drought-for-montclair-water-customers>

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The 'Holy Grail' for earthquake scientists has been accidentally destroyed



A few weeks before its surprise, unceremonious destruction, U.S. Geological Survey research geologist David Schwartz on June 7, 2016, shows how a curb has been pulled apart over the decades by the powerful seismic forces of the Hayward fault. (Rong-Gong Lin II / Los Angeles Times)

By **Rong-Gong Lin II**

JULY 5, 2016, 11:17 AM | REPORTING FROM HAYWARD, CALIF.

For nearly half a century, thousands trekked to Rose and Prospect streets to behold a slice of sidewalk that, by conventional standards, had no curb appeal.

Pulled apart so that it no longer aligned, the humble curb wasn't much to look at. But for earthquake scientists, it was a kind of Holy Grail, perfectly illustrating the seismic forces at work underneath this Bay Area neighborhood.

Since at least the 1970s, scientists have painstakingly photographed the curb as the Hayward fault pushed it farther and farther out of alignment. It was a sharp reminder that someday, a magnitude 7 earthquake would strike directly beneath one of the most

heavily populated areas in Northern California.

Then, one early June day, a city crew decided to fix the faulty curb — pun intended. By doing what cities are supposed to do — fixing streets — the city's action stunned scientists, who said a wonderful curbside laboratory for studying earthquakes was destroyed.

“They really took it out. Wow,” David Schwartz, a U.S. Geological Survey geologist, said when he clicked on a photo of the curb's destruction. “It really was an iconic location on the Hayward fault.”

Andrew Alden, an Oakland science writer, was among the first to document the curb's destruction.

He was invited by the U.S. Geological Survey to come to that intersection on the last Friday of June, as a scientist hoped to give emergency preparedness officials a chance “to see what a real fault looks like.”

“It's sad. It was a real letdown,” said Alden, whose tweet and blog post about the intersection was picked up by [Canadian media](#). “It's really unusual to have such a clean piece of evidence right here.”

But Hayward officials said they had no idea this curb had such sacred significance for geologists.

“We weren't aware of it,” said Kelly McAdoo, assistant city manager. She said the curb was replaced to install a wheelchair-accessible ramp at that intersection, one of about 150 to 170 such ramps that are installed every year at a cost of \$3,000 each.

“Our mandate from our council is that we have safe sidewalks and accessible sidewalks for all members of our community,” she said, adding that the city might have acted differently had it known about the curb's geological significance.

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“We probably would have looked at it differently, or we would have tried to help them document it,” McAdoo said, adding that if scientists want to share information with the city about sites used to monitor seismic activity, “we'd be happy to talk with them” to

see whether there's a way to alert city crews about their geologic significance.

But she said the city has a responsibility to “maintain safe streets and roads. When you've got a curb that's offset, we probably would eventually want to fix it and see if there's some other way to monitor seismic safety over time.”

The Times sent McAdoo a [link](#) to photos showing the curb offset growing since the 1970s, and she said the initial reaction among some employees was, “Look at how offset the curb is. We need to fix that.”



Mika McKinnon
@mikamckinnon

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Nooooo! Did the city even know they were killing a classic geopilgrimage site with their maintenance work? :(
[twitter.com/aboutgeology/s...](#)

3:43 PM - 24 Jun 2016

7 9

The curb was once straight, running perpendicular to the Hayward fault, which runs in a north-south direction. But over the years, the eastern half of the curb got pulled south, while the other side got pulled north.



This curb was once flush but became offset because the Hayward fault is pulling the curb apart. (Rong-Gong Lin II / Los Angeles Times)

The intersection has long been watched with reverence. A website called geologyfieldtrips.com features scanned photos showing the same curb in 1971 — already displaying the telltale signs of being pulled apart. By 1987, the curb was completely offset, courtesy of a fault that geologists say is one of the Bay Area's most worrisome.

The Hayward fault courses right underneath Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward and Fremont and produces a large earthquake, on average, every 160 years, with a margin of error of about 80 years. It has been 148 years since the Hayward fault last ruptured, unleashing a huge earthquake.

“We're kind of in the range where something could happen at any time,” Schwartz said.

On its website, the USGS calls the Hayward fault the region's “tectonic time bomb,” which could “cause hundreds of deaths, leave thousands homeless and devastate the region's economy.”

On top of the Hayward fault, Schwartz said, sits “two million people who directly live on top of it. It sits geographically in the center of the Bay Area. There's a tremendous amount of infrastructure built up on it — water systems, gas, electrical, BART crosses it — so a large event on that fault is like hitting the bullseye on a target.”

Famously, the Hayward fault's ongoing movement forced Hayward to shutter its historic city hall, which remains standing and is slowly being torn up by the fault's movement.



The historic Hayward City Hall was closed because it sits directly on top of the Hayward fault, which is pulling the building apart. (Rong-Gong Lin II / Los Angeles Times)



Cracks in the historic Hayward City Hall are formed by the slow, persistent movement of the Hayward fault. (Rong-Gong Lin II / Los Angeles Times)

There are other, more subtle signs of the Hayward fault's influence in the city's downtown. Some curbs and sidewalks have bends or cracks in them that geologists know are clear evidence of the fault's movement. Some cracks travel up vertical structures, including buildings where people work or live.



A broken curb shows the path of the Hayward fault in another area of Hayward. (Rong-Gong Lin II / Los Angeles Times)

“If it was up to us, we would put signs up on all of these active faults,” showing people where they’re crossing the Hayward fault or the San Andreas fault, Schwartz said. But he doubted civic leaders would welcome that idea: “I think they’d think it’s negative publicity. But I think it’s informative to the public.”

Schwartz said he would’ve liked it if Hayward had kept the offset curb there, “as a visual reminder to people about the Hayward fault.”

But he said no matter how pristine the famous curb looked after the city fixed it, the Hayward fault will make sure it doesn’t stay that way.

“The fault,” Schwartz said, “will have its revenge.”

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